

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2004. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 6, 7, 10-48, 52-54, 57, 62-67, 75, 85-90, 98, 99, 102, 104 and 106 are pending in this application. Claims 6, 10-11, 14, 18, 21-22, 25-26, 29, 33-36, 41, 43, 45, 62-63, 65-67, 85-89, 98-99, 102 and 104 are being amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. A new claim 106 is being added based upon the original claim 104. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

Claims 6, 7, 10-48, 52-54, 57, 62-67, 75, 85-90, 98, 99, and 102 were objected for various formal matters, and claim 104 was objected for its dependency.

As indicated, claims 6, 10-11, 14, 18, 21-22, 25-26, 29, 33-36, 41, 43, 45, 62-63, 65-67, 85-89, 98-99, 102 and 104 are being amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejections is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

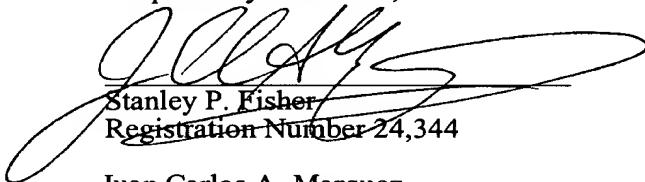
Claims 6, 7, 10-48, 52-54, 57, 62-67, 75, 85-90, 98, 99, and 102 would be allowed on the condition that the formal matters are addressed as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 104 would be allowed after correcting its dependency. As all the above-mentioned allowable claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner, they are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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November 15, 2004

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